

Lesson 1: 'Akatomo'anga – Introduction

17/10/2012 Wednesday



❖ **Kia orāna** Welcome to an introduction to **Cook Island Māori**

- ❖ We are embarking on this new language series so that we align ourselves with the MOE's intention for schools to be **culturally responsive** and more focused on the achievement of pacific students
- ❖ Each Wednesday, it is the intention of the Pasifika Fusion Festival Coordinators: Tangi, Sharleen, Leigh, Rina and Gaylene, together with the Special Project Coordinator: Whāea Jacque, to
 - avail staff of **commonly used classroom Cook Island Māori**
 - instruct staff on the **correct pronunciation** of **Cook Island Māori** and
 - Keep Freyberg staff up to date with **Pasifika news in our community** and provide interesting information regarding Pasifika culture.



- ❖ **Tangi:** Before we launch into our first Cook Island Māori word (beginning next week 24 November), we first want to share with you a little bit of information concerning the language of the Cook Islands.

- ❖ **Gaylene:**

Te Au Reo

Languages

Distinct Polynesian languages are spoken in the Cook Islands.

- ✚ Cook Islands Māori is an eastern Polynesian language, which belongs to the same language family as the languages of the New Zealand Māori, and of Hawai'i, and Tahiti. It has a number of distinct dialects.
- ✚ The language of Pukapuka is a western Polynesian language, which belongs to the same language family as the languages of Sāmoa, Tuvalu, and Tokelau. Pukapuka's national status within the Cook Islands means that some Cook Islands Māori terms and expressions are included in their vernacular.
- ✚ Palmerston Island has its own unique and distinctive mix of Cook Islands Māori and English.

- ❖ **Tangi:**

Te Au Reo 'Enua Tātakita'i

Dialects

- ✚ Cook Islands Māori has a number of dialects. Speakers of one dialect can understand the others. They are the dialects of:
 - **Aitutaki**
 - **Ātiu, Ma'uke, and Miti'āro (Ngàpūturu)**
 - **Mangaia**
 - **Manihiki and Rakahanga**
 - **Rarotonga**
 - **Tongareva (Penrhyn)**
- ✚ Rarotongan is the most widely used and standardised dialect, both in the Cook Islands and within Cook Islands communities in New Zealand.

❖ Rina:

Tauī'anga Reo

Language Change

- ✚ The languages and dialects of the Cook Islands are traditionally oral. However, with the advent of Christianity and publications, the written word became another way to communicate. The written form of communication had a huge impact on the spoken form of the dialects and languages of Cook Islands Māori people. The Bible was printed in the dialect of Rarotonga (*Te Bibilia Tapu Ra: Koia te Kororomotu Taito e te Kororomotu Ou*, published in 1888) and this motivated the people on Manihiki to learn to read and write in this dialect, although they continued to speak in the Manihiki dialect.

❖ Whāea Jacque:

- ✚ Currently, advanced technology demands the introduction of new words that challenge the vocabulary of Cook Islands languages and dialects. Words like “computer” challenge Cook Islands people to agree on an acceptable term in their language. There are a number of options: one is to transliterate the new terms (for example, “computer” becomes *kamupīuta*).
- ✚ Another way is to create new words from the existing Cook Islands Māori vocabulary (for example, the word *roro-uira* was coined to mean “computer”).
- ✚ A third option is to add a new meaning to an existing Cook Islands Māori word.

❖ Sharleen:

Arà-retā 'è Tòna 'Akapapa'anga

Alphabets and Alphabetical Order

- ✚ The alphabet of the Rarotonga dialect, used widely throughout the Cook Islands, is: a, e, ng, i, k, m, n, o, p, r, t, u, v and the glottal stop (').

- ✚ This dialect uses two diacritical marks: the macron and the glottal stop.
- ✚ Vowels may be either long or short. In written text, a macron placed over a vowel (à, è, ì, ò, ù) indicates that the vowel sound is long. Variation of vowel length in the pronunciation of a word can change the word's meaning. For example, **marama** (moon) and **màrama** (daylight).
- ✚ The nine consonant sounds of the Rarotonga dialect are: ng, k, m, n, p, r, t, v, and the glottal stop (').
- ✚ The **Tongareva** alphabet has two additional letters: s and h.
- ✚ The dialect spoken in **Manihiki** and **Rakahanga** also has two additional letters in its alphabet: f and h.
- ✚ The **Pukapuka** language has three additional letters in its alphabet: l, w, and y.



❖ Leigh leigh:

Finally, there are many words that are common to New Zealand Māori and Cook Islands Māori (that is, cognates), for example:

✚ **ingoa, kete, moana, rangi, rà, tamariki, vai (wai)**

and there are many English words that have been adapted into Cook Islands Māori (that is, transliterations) for example:

✚ **pèni, 'àpara, pèpa, 'imene, 'òniani**